

App. No. 10/700,290  
Office Action Dated March 21, 2005

the difference, the Group IIb of claim 1 corresponds to group 13 of the 1989 IUPAC periodic table, while the Tanaka group IIIB corresponds to group 3 of that periodic table. There is no overlap between the Tanaka group IIIB and the present group IIb. Therefore a film according to claim 1, containing an element from groups IIa, IIb, and IIb, would be comprised of different elements than a film taught by Tanaka.

The oxide thin film according to claim 1, containing an element from group IIa, an element from group IIb, and an element from group IIb, forms a thin film that is able to transmit visible light and thus is ideal for an electronic device (for example a solar cell). In contrast, an oxide thin film according to Tanaka, including mixing elements from the group IIIB, as referenced by Tanaka (Sc, Y, etc.), provides an opaque oxide thin film.

Favorable reconsideration of claim 1 is requested.

Claims 3-7 were rejected as being unpatentable over Tanaka in view of the Examiner's remarks. Applicants traverse this rejection. Claims 3-7 should be reconsidered allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, from which they depend. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejection as applied to the rejected claims. Favorable reconsideration of claims 3-7 is requested.

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In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612)455-3804.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Dated: June 21, 2005



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